

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KARACH 00560 120733 Z

20

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 XMB-07 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 TRSE-00 MC-02

AID-20 RSR-01 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 PRS-01 PA-03 USIA-12

/116 W

----- 048249

R 120650 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7123

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL LAHORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KARACHI 0560

BEIRUT FOR RCAA

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, PK

SUBJ: CIVAIR - PIA REEQUIPMENT

REF: KARACHI 0431

1. IN- FIGHTING BETWEEN RIVAL US AIRCRAFT COMPANIES FOR
PIA WIDE- BODIED JET ORDER HAS INTENSIFIED OVER PAST
WEEKS AS PIA PURCHASE DECISION SUCCESSIVELY POSTPONED.
MOST RECENT BLOW STRUCK BY BOEING WAS " EDITORIAL" COMMENT
IN ALL LEADING NEWSPAPERS BY RETIRED AIR MARSHAL AND
FORMER MANAGING DIRECTOR PIA, NUR KHAN, WHICH THROUGH
WHAT APPEARS TO CONGEN AS TENDENTIOUS REASONING, STRONGLY
ADVOCATED PURCHASE BOEING 747. (KHAN' S ARGUMENTS WERE
ESSENTIALLY THAT TO BE PATRIOTIC PAKISTANI ONE MUST THINK
OPTIMISTICALLY ABOUT FUTURE OF PIA AND IF ONE THINKS
OPTIMISTICALLY, THEN BOEING 747 IS THE AIRCRAFT TO BUY.)
DOUGLAS HAS DECIDED NOT TO REPLY DIRECTLY TO THIS ARTICLE
BUT CONTINUES ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN IN LOCAL PRESS AS DOES
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KARACH 00560 120733 Z

BOEING.

2. WHILE BOEING AND DOUGLAS SLUG IT OUT ON PROPAGANDA FRONT, WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRESIDENT BHUTTO MET SATURDAY APRIL 7, WITH EIGHT- MAN TOP- LEVEL DELEGATION FROM PIA HEADED BY MANAGING DIRECTOR RAFIQ SAIGOL. SESSION WAS TO HAVE LASTED TWO HOURS AND TO HAVE LED TO FINAL DECISION CONCERNING AIRCRAFT PURCHASE. MEETING REPORTEDLY INTERRUPTED HOWEVER AFTER 20 MINUTES OWING URGENT PARLIAMENTARY DEVELOPMENT CONCERNING CONSTITUTION WHICH REQUIRED ATTENTION OF PRESIDENT. AFTER MEETING BROKE UP PRESIDENT BHUTTO REPORTED TO HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN TO SAIGOL OVER RUMORS CONCERNING BRIBERY WHICH HAVE INCREASED DESPITE KLM- LUFTHANSA STUDIES (SEE REFTEL) WHICH ALLEGEDLY SUPPORTED PIA PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION.

3. ACCORDING FURTHER REPORTS FROM TRADE SOURCES, RAFIQ SAIGOL MADE SECOND TRIP TO ISLAMABAD EARLY THIS WEEK TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION AIRCRAFT PURCHASE WITH PRESIDENT. ON APRIL 10, PIA PLANNING DIRECTOR HUSAIN, WHO CLOSE CONFIDANT OF SAIGOL, TOLD DPO FINAL DECISION TO BE MADE BY PRESIDENT ON APRIL 17. HE INTIMATED FURTHER THAT AMONG VARIOUS OPTIONS, WHICH INCLUDE PURCHASE WIDE- BODIED AIRCRAFT, PURCHASE USED 707 S OR POSTPONEMENT ANY PURCHASE FOR YEAR OR MORE, DECISION WILL BE MADE TO PURCHASE WIDE- BODIED AIRCRAFT. HUSAIN SEEMED ASSURED AND OPTIMISTIC ON THIS POINT.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PIA HAS AVOIDED GIVING ANY INTIMATION TO CONGEN OR OTHERS WITH WHOM WE HAVE CONTACT CONCERNING WHICH AIRCRAFT IT WISHES TO PURCHASE, WE BELIEVE THAT, DESPITE PRESSURE FROM MILITARY AND OTHERS FOR LARGER 747, COMPANY HAS FIXED ON DC 10 AS MOST ECONOMIC WIDE- BODIED AIRCRAFT, GIVEN PRESENT PIA GROWTH PROJECTIONS.
TIGER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KARACH00560
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KARACHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730446/aaaaiskq.tel
Line Count: 104
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 KARACHI 0431
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Jan-2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <15-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980126
Subject: CIVAIR - PIA REEQUIPMENT
TAGS: ETRN, PK, ETRN
To: BEIRUT
EB
ISLAMABAD
LAHORE
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

